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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/500,617	12/02/2004	Dietrich Schluter	57329US005	4341
32692 7590 05/16/2007 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			EXAMINER GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT 2833	PAPER NUMBER
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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/500,617
Filing Date: December 02, 2004
Appellant(s): SCHLUTER ET AL.

John A. Burtis
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 1/23/2007 appealing from the Office action mailed 4/10/2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

Art Unit: 2833

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

DE 2,048,144

Steiner

4-1972

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-4, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent DE 2048144.

With regard to claims 1,8, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses a telecommunications terminal block, comprising a splitter module, said block including: at least one contact module (4 or 5) including a front side and a rear side, an upper side and a lower side, a first side and a second side opposite the first side, as well as at least (Fig. 3) one row of contacts (33) extending

Art Unit: 2833

between the first side and the second side which are exposed at the front side, and at least two arrays each comprising at least two wire guides (10, 11), arranged at the upper side and lower side of the contact module, which lead cable contactors terminated at the contact (33) from the front side to the first side or the second side, the wire guides of each array each leading to a single side, whereby at least two of the arrays adjoin each other and at least one row of contacts and are assigned to said row of contacts, and whereby the wire guides of the each such array lead to opposite sides.

With regard to claims 2, 7 German Patent DE 2048144 discloses that wire guides (10, 11) being closed wire routing troughs.

With regard to claim 3, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses wire guides (28, 29) that are substantially hook-shaped.

With regard to claim 4, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses each at least one contact module and its wire guides, are integrated into the housing (1).

With regard to claims 9, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses a wire distributor, more particularly telecommunications main distributor, including at the least one terminal block

With regard to claims 10, German Patent DE 2048144 discloses a plurality of terminal blocks stacked or adjacent to each other, whereby between any two contact modules, there are provided more arrays of wire guides (assuming that each of the two components forming 5 comprising an array of wire guides) , than there are rows of contacts within the contact modules.

(10) Response to Argument

Appellants argue (Brief, p. 5) that Steiner disclose two arrays which do not adjoin each other and at least one row of contacts.

Art Unit: 2833

However, a term "adjoining arrays" was interpreted by the examiner as next to each other, neighboring, in a spirit of the specification. According to the specification (Fig. 1, 2), the arrays (34, 34, each comprising two wire guides) do not touch each other but are separated by row of contacts (32). It would be impossible for "the arrays (34) adjoin each other and at least one row of contacts (32)" (claim 1, lines 10-11) and at the same time directly contact each other, since the row of contacts (32) being disposed between the neighboring arrays (34, 34). Hence, as it was shown in the rejection, the prior art-German Patent DE 2048144 discloses that, at least two of the arrays (5, 5) adjoin each other and at least one row of contacts (33) and are assigned to said row of contacts.

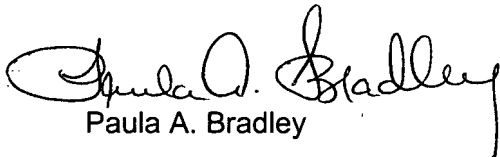
For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Gilman



Conferees:


Paula A. Bradley

Darren Schuberg

